

House Republican Press Release

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**Rep. Stone to Participate in International Homeland Security Test**



*Chemical Attack Will Be Staged in Eastern Connecticut*

State Rep. John “ Jack” Stone, R-134<sup>th</sup>, Fairfield, Trumbull, has been invited to take part in the nation’s largest and most comprehensive homeland security exercise to take place April 4-5 in Connecticut, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and overseas.

Simulated attacks will occur in New London, Connecticut, and other locations in a congressionally mandated test of homeland security procedures, called Top Officials (TOPOFF) 3 Full-Scale Exercise. This is the third such exercise.

Connecticut and New Jersey were tapped to handle the drills, which will test preparedness for attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, including biological, radiological and various explosives. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security headed by Michael Chertoff is coordinating the drill. Similar exercises will take place at the same time in the United Kingdom and Canada.

In New London, the exercise will evaluate state, local and federal response to a chemical attack, response, urban search, decontamination of victim actors and emergency management coordination and control.

Rep. Stone said, “Because of our proximity to New York and the location of potential targets within our state, Connecticut is a good place for a case study of how to protect citizens, property and facilities.”

“I look forward to observing the exercise and learning how state and local authorities can best prepare and respond to future attacks,” added Rep. Stone.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, this will be the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the United States. It is designed to strengthen the nation’s capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction.

The exercise will involve more than 10,000 participants representing more than 200 federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and international agencies and organizations and volunteer groups.

Rep. Stone, ranking member of the legislature's Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, serve the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Fairfield and Trumbull in the state House of Representatives.